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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION AT CINCINNATI

JASON DAVIS and :
JENNIFER DAVIS,
:
Plaintiffs,
vs. : Case No. 1:24-cv:0202
CHARMAINE McGUFFEY, et al., :
Defendants. :
*

DEPONENT: Jennifer Davis
DATE: May 9, 2025
*

Kristina L. Laker
Court Reporter

BARLOW REPORTING & VIDEO SERVICES, LLC
620 Washington Street
Covington, Kentucky 41011
(859) 261-8440

1 The deposition of JENNIFER DAVIS taken for the
2 purpose of discovery and/or use as evidence in the
3 within action, pursuant to notice, heretofore taken
4 at the office of Chris Wiest, Attorney at Law, PLLC,
5 50 East Rivercenter Boulevard, Suite 1275,
6 Covington, Kentucky, on May 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.,
7 upon oral examination, and to be used in accordance
8 with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

* * * * *

10 APPEARANCES

11 REPRESENTING THE PLAINTIFFS:

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18 REPRESENTING THE DEFENDANTS:

19 Matt Miller-Novak, Esq.
Andrew E. Prem, Esq.
20 HAMILTON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
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21 Cincinnati, OH 45202

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Stackpole, legal liaison

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1 JENNIFER DAVIS,
2 of lawful age, as having been duly sworn, as
3 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified as
4 follows:

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. MILLER-NOVAK:

7 Q. Can you state and spell your name for the
8 record, please.

9 A. Sure. Jennifer Nell Patterson-Davis.

10 J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r. N-e-l-l. P-a-t-t-e-r-s-o-n,
11 hyphen, D-a-v-i-s.

12 Q. So Patterson is your --

13 A. Maiden name.

14 Q. -- maiden name?

15 A. Correct.

16 MR. Wiest: I don't know if we talked
17 about this. You need to listen until he
18 finishes asking today and then you answer.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 MR. Wiest: And that way she can get
21 a clean transcript.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay.

23 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: That was my job --

24 MR. Wiest: Sorry.

25 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: -- to tell her the

1 instructions.

2 Q. All right. Well, I will go through a
3 little bit about -- my name is Matt Miller-Novak. I
4 represent all the Defendants in this case. And this
5 handsome young gentleman next to me is Andy Prem,
6 and he also represents the Defendant. That's Pete
7 Stackpole, who is staff attorney for the Sheriff's
8 Department.

9 So today this is a deposition, which is an
10 oral examination. It's part of the discovery
11 process. So I'm going to ask you questions today,
12 okay?

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. All right. So some of the instructions
15 I'm going to give you -- I know that you were at
16 least present during Sheriff McGuffey's deposition,
17 so you've seen -- you've at least seen a deposition
18 I'm aware of, but I'll just kind of run through just
19 some regular procedural stuff so we kind of
20 understand the process, okay?

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. So as your counsel pointed out, we have a
23 court reporter here today. She's typing in
24 shorthand everything that comes out of our mouths;
25 do you understand that?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And because of that really the end
3 product, if you will, is going to be a written
4 record. We don't have a videographer here. So this
5 all will be a transcript. Because of that some of
6 the things I'm about to say is just to make sure
7 that the record is clear and clean --

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. -- do you understand?

10 A. Correct. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. So one of the most important things
12 is that when I ask you a yes or no question, if
13 you're going to answer yes or no, you probably want
14 to say yes or no as opposed to uh-huhs or nuh-uhs;
15 do you understand?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And the reason for that is just to make
18 sure she doesn't accidentally record a negative as
19 an affirmative or vice versa. The other thing,
20 which your counsel pointed out, is that because she
21 is typing, we want to make sure that we don't
22 interrupt one another; do you understand?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Because we just want to make sure she gets
25 all of my questions and all of your answers. So

1 when I am asking a question, I do ask that you let
2 me finish before you answer.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. It's human nature to kind of like know
5 what a question is going to be and tend to blurt out
6 answers. It's going to probably happen. That's not
7 a big deal. Just do your best.

8 A. I will do my best.

9 Q. Yeah, you will not be shamed or anything
10 like that if you have an accident or two, so don't
11 worry about it. Everybody does. If you need to
12 take a break, just let me know. You're not -- by no
13 means I'm a judge or anything like that. You don't
14 even really need to ask permission. Just let me
15 know you need to take a break.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. The only thing I ask is that, you know, if
18 I have a question on the table, please answer it and
19 then just say I'd like to take a break, okay?

20 MR. Wiest: And just for the record,
21 if there is a question pending and there's
22 a question of privilege, we reserve the
23 right without you answering to address
24 that.

25 Q. Well, and he might object sometimes, too,

1 okay?

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. But you are -- you know, certainly if your
4 counsel gives you an instruction, you should
5 probably listen to your counsel, okay?

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. As I kind of move forward here, I'm going
8 to ask some questions that are not prepared by any
9 means and they might not be necessarily stellar and
10 they might be a little bit confusing. So for some
11 reason if I ask a question that's not understandable
12 to you or you don't understand the question, please
13 do not feel that you cannot ask me for
14 clarification, okay?

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. I will not be offended or insulted in any
17 way, shape, or form. I would prefer that you do
18 understand the question so I get your honest answers
19 today, okay?

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. All right. So I'm going to ask you a
22 question, and this is always for me the more awkward
23 one. Do you have -- and you don't need to tell me
24 what they are, but do you have any medical condition
25 that interferes with your memory or ability to

1 coherently remember events or describe events?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Are you on any -- again, you don't have to
4 tell me what they are. I'm not asking about your
5 medical business -- at least not at this point in
6 time -- but are you on any medications that would
7 interfere with your ability to remember things or
8 testify clearly today?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Great. We'll assume that you're in good
11 health then. Congratulations. So if you don't have
12 any questions for me, then we'll kind of get to the
13 meat of things --

14 A. No questions.

15 Q. -- okay? None. All right. So have you
16 ever been deposed before?

17 A. No, I have not.

18 Q. Okay. I always feel a little bad if I'm
19 someone's first deposition. You deserve better.
20 All right. Do you have -- can you describe your
21 educational background as briefly as you can?

22 A. Sure. I graduated high school from Oak
23 Hills in the west side of Cincinnati. I attended
24 the University of Cincinnati. I have a bachelor's
25 degree in community health education. And I have a

1 professional certification in entrepreneurship and
2 small business management.

3 Q. When did you graduate from Oak Hills?

4 A. 1995.

5 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: I'm a 1995
6 graduate.

7 MR. Wiest: I am, too.

8 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Are you?

9 MR. Wiest: Yes.

10 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: How about that.

11 We've all got our 30th year anniversary
12 coming up --

13 THE WITNESS: We do.

14 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: -- this year,
15 don't we? Bummer.

16 Q. All right. So if I remember right, Jason
17 graduated in 1994 from --

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Yeah. Were you guys high school
20 sweethearts?

21 A. Well, we've been dating since I was 15 and
22 he was 16.

23 Q. Oh wow. Congratulations. How old were
24 you when you got married?

25 A. I believe I was 26.

1 MR. Wiest: For clarity, are you
2 saying you've been married 26 years?

3 THE WITNESS: No.

4 MR. PREM: She was 26.

5 THE WITNESS: I believe it was in --

6 MR. Wiest: Oh, you were 26?

7 THE WITNESS: I was 26 years old.

8 Q. Okay. What year was that?

9 A. Oh, good question. It was 2003 or 2004.

10 I can't remember.

11 Q. Okay. So you said you started dating
12 Jason when you were 15?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. So it took you 11 years to figure out
15 whether or not he was the right one?

16 A. Actually it would have taken longer, but I
17 needed health insurance when my health insurance ran
18 out at 26. I'm not going to lie.

19 Q. That's all right. So he's like your
20 health insurance sugar --

21 A. I'm turning 26.

22 Q. Yeah.

23 A. We need to get this done.

24 Q. Health insurance sugar daddy.

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. That's funny. Were you kind of I guess
2 dating or a couple that whole 11-year --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- period? Okay.

5 A. We had lived together as well.

6 Q. Okay. And he was already working for the
7 corrections department at that point in time --
8 Department of Corrections?

9 A. At what age? And not when we were 16.

10 Q. No. When you were 26.

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you already had graduated from the
15 University of Cincinnati?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Okay. And then Jason said on Tuesday that
18 you do not currently work?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. He mentioned that you had some income,
21 though; is that correct?

22 A. I do some studies for P & G. It's paid in
23 the form of a prepaid card, not a paycheck. I'm not
24 on their payroll.

25 Q. Is it like an independent contractor?

1 MR. Wiest: Objection.

2 You can answer.

3 THE WITNESS: Okay.

4 A. It's -- I don't even believe it's that. I
5 will not get a 1099 from them. It's just -- it's
6 not much. It's a prepaid gift card is what they put
7 it on. So if I test out a product for P & G like a
8 mop or something, then they will give me
9 compensation for testing a product or giving an
10 opinion on a product.

11 Q. Oh. So you almost do like consumer
12 reviews --

13 A. Somewhat.

14 Q. -- ish?

15 A. Some of it is research, some of it is
16 reviewing.

17 Q. When did you start doing that?

18 A. I honestly don't remember. It's -- well,
19 actually I can tell you when I started it. It was
20 when -- after my son was born, I was originally
21 recruited by P & G to do diaper studies for my son.
22 So that had to have been 2004. And once he was out
23 of the diaper studies, then they asked if I wanted
24 to do consumer studies.

25 Q. Is this something that you ultimately have

1 to report on your tax returns?

2 A. I believe there was a threshold if I made
3 it. But I have not always had a tax form from P &
4 G.

5 Q. So they don't always present you with
6 something that you have to give to --

7 A. No.

8 Q. -- your tax preparer?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Yeah, it's okay. Let me finish. I said
11 it would happen. It's all right. If it makes you
12 feel any better, I'll accidentally cut you off
13 later, too. Jason had said that you were the owner
14 of Gold Roof?

15 A. Gold Top Dairy Bar.

16 Q. Gold Top Dairy Bar. Thank you. When did
17 you start that business?

18 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

19 You can answer.

20 A. I believe I purchased it in 2003 or 2004.
21 I'm not sure of the exact date.

22 Q. Right around the time you got married?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. So you didn't start that dairy bar -- for
25 lack of better word -- you purchased that business

1 from somebody else?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Okay. And then my understanding is is
4 that -- did you sell it or just close it?

5 A. I sold it in 2001.

6 MR. Wiest: 2001?

7 Q. '21?

8 A. I mean -- I'm sorry. 2021, after COVID.

9 Sorry.

10 Q. So it's still operating now?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay. And why did you sell it?

13 A. Maybe midlife crisis. I have done it for
14 almost 20 years. I took the business as far as I
15 could. I owned the real estate. Property values
16 were up. My books were clean. It was a good time
17 to sell according to my accountant.

18 Q. How many employees did you have when you
19 owned Gold Roof [sic]?

20 A. Approximately 25 a season. We were a
21 seasonal business only open from March to October.

22 Q. Okay. I'm going to change the topic here
23 a little bit. So do you recall what year Jason
24 began working as a patrol officer?

25 A. I believe he was in the jail for about 12

1 years. So 12 years after he started. I'm not sure
2 of the exact date he started. I just know it was
3 about 12 years after he had worked in the jail.

4 Q. And have you been supportive of his
5 career?

6 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

7 A. I have.

8 Q. So have you ever wanted him to do anything
9 else besides public safety?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you consider yourself supportive of
12 police officers in general?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Does Jason frequently talk to you about
15 his job?

16 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

17 You can answer.

18 A. Can you clarify about what part of his
19 job?

20 Q. Sure. Does he ever talk to you about or
21 tell you stories about what occurred during the day?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Does he tell you stories about
24 people he's arrested, for example?

25 A. Yes, but never identifying people.

1 Q. So he might tell you about an event
2 without identifying a suspect's name or something
3 like that?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Okay. So he might tell you about how he
6 pulled somebody over, maybe they were completely
7 wasted while they were driving or something like
8 that, but he wouldn't identify the human being,
9 correct?

10 A. Can you say that one more time?

11 Q. Yeah. Like he might just tell you a story
12 like about the events, like describe a DUI or
13 something?

14 A. No. He wouldn't describe an event. He
15 would say I had to sit on this accident for six
16 hours today or something. He would not want to tell
17 me details of. . .

18 Q. So sometimes he vents if he's had a bad
19 day, for lack of a better description?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then maybe sometimes he kind of
22 celebrates if he's had a good day, correct?

23 A. If there are good days, yes.

24 Q. Does he talk to you about his coworkers at
25 all?

1 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. For lack of a better wording, does he ever
4 discuss like office drama with you?

5 A. No. It's usually personal.

6 Q. By personal can you tell me what you mean
7 by that?

8 A. Sure. Like he plays football with some of
9 the officers. So he would -- if we were at a game,
10 he would say that's so-and-so's wife. They have
11 three kids together. I work with him in this
12 department or he works for this department.

13 Q. So he just keeps you kind of informed of
14 what's going on in his friends' lives?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. And who was the sheriff when Jason
17 first started in the Sheriff's Department?

18 A. I believe it was Simon Leis.

19 Q. Okay. Who was the next sheriff; do you
20 recall?

21 A. Jim Neil.

22 Q. And then?

23 A. Charmaine McGuffey.

24 Q. Did Jason ever discuss Sheriff Leis with
25 you at all?

1 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

2 A. I don't remember. It's been so long ago.

3 Q. What about Sheriff Neil?

4 A. Possibly, yes, but I cannot remember any
5 specifics.

6 Q. Was Jason generally positive about Sheriff
7 Neil?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Would you say that he liked Sheriff Neil?

10 A. I couldn't tell you one way or the other
11 if he liked him or not.

12 Q. And do you understand that Sheriff
13 McGuffey campaigned against Sheriff Neil?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did Jason discuss that campaign with you
16 at all?

17 A. I can't remember.

18 Q. Was he supportive of Sheriff McGuffey's
19 campaign?

20 A. I can't tell you what -- if he did or not.

21 Q. Do you know if he was critical of Sheriff
22 McGuffey at all?

23 A. I can't give you a specific instance.

24 Q. So at no time did he discuss Sheriff
25 McGuffey's candidacy or character with you before

1 she was the sheriff?

2 A. I don't remember.

3 Q. Do you remember if he discussed Sheriff
4 McGuffey at all before she was the sheriff?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And what would he say about Sheriff
7 McGuffey before she was the sheriff?

8 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

9 A. I remember there was an incident where she
10 had tried to get him fired, and he explained that to
11 me and. . .

12 Q. Was he upset by that?

13 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What, if any, opinions did you have about
16 Sheriff McGuffey while she was campaigning?

17 A. Well, I guess I could say it was already
18 unfavorable because of the interaction that my
19 husband had had with her previously.

20 Q. Okay. So you had unfavorable opinions
21 about Sheriff McGuffey -- well, then Candidate
22 McGuffey?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. We're going back in time. Are you
25 registered to vote as a republican or a democrat?

1 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

2 You can answer.

3 A. Honestly I don't remember, because I have
4 been registered as both.

5 Q. You're not --

6 A. I have voted in both primaries, so I know
7 I have been registered as a democrat and I have been
8 registered as a republican. If I had to make a
9 guess, I would say it's currently republican.

10 Q. In the most recent presidential primary
11 did you vote for the republican primary or the
12 democratic primary?

13 A. I believe it was republican -- wait a
14 minute. I'm sorry. Was that the same primary where
15 Jim Neil was running against Sheriff McGuffey; was
16 that the same one?

17 MR. Wiest: No. It was before.

18 Because '24 he ran in the general as a
19 republican.

20 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Well, but --

21 THE WITNESS: 2020 is --

22 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: We'll go off the
23 record for a second.

24 THE COURT REPORTER: We're off the
25 record.

1 (Off-the-record discussion.)

2 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: So I think we're
3 in general agreement, we're just not sure
4 how you're registered to vote?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Okay. We had an
7 off-the-record conversation and -- yes.

8 BY MR. MILLER-NOVAK:

9 Q. All right. Did you vote for Charmaine
10 McGuffey or did you vote for Jim Neil in 2020?

11 A. Jim Neil.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Oh -- yes. Jim Neil.

14 Q. Okay. What about in 2024?

15 A. Jim Neil.

16 Q. Do you know Jim Neil at all?

17 A. I have met him at a campaign event. I
18 have met him at my husband's football game. And I
19 believe those are the only times that we have met in
20 person.

21 Q. When Sheriff McGuffey won her election in
22 2020, did Jason have anything to say about it?

23 A. Not to me.

24 Q. I'm going to hand you what's marked
25 Defendants' Exhibit 1.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. So this is the complaint that you filed --
3 well, counsel, I guess, filed in this case. Have
4 you seen it before?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Did you review this complaint
7 before it was filed?

8 MR. Wiest: Objection.

9 You can answer yes or no.

10 A. Honestly I don't remember if it was before
11 or after it was filed.

12 Q. Okay. But you have reviewed it?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Do you agree that the statements in here
15 are true to the best of your understanding?

16 MR. Wiest: Objection. She's not a
17 lawyer on any legal stance. She can
18 answer to the factual allegations.

19 A. Yes, I have an idea of what's in the case.

20 Q. Well, regarding the factual allegations,
21 do you think any of them are untrue?

22 A. No. They're true.

23 Q. Okay. All right. So I'm going to have
24 you actually turn to Exhibit 1. So if you kind of
25 look at the page numbers, it would be technically

1 page 16 even though it's not titled 16, but there's
2 15 pages in the complaint. So it's the first page
3 afterward.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Okay. You're there. All right. So have
6 you seen this before?

7 A. I have.

8 Q. Okay. So my understanding is -- and
9 please correct me if I'm wrong -- is that these are
10 comments that were kind of rolling on a stream that
11 occurred on Facebook, which was Sheriff McGuffey's
12 kind of like press conference; do you agree with
13 that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And this Jennifer Patterson Davis
16 shown here, that's your Facebook name?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Okay. So I think these maybe -- I don't
19 know. Do you know what these 21:04 is; do you
20 understand what that is?

21 A. If I had to guess, it would be at what --
22 maybe what point in the broadcast, like what time of
23 the live feed that those comments appeared.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But that doesn't make sense, because

1 there's three seconds. So that would be incorrect.

2 I do not know that.

3 Q. I don't either. I was just seeing if you
4 did.

5 A. That's what I would have guessed, but it
6 doesn't make sense when you look at the numbers.

7 Q. Right. Because they're out of order?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. I agree. All right. We'll just chalk it
10 up as no one here knows.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. All right. But at the top it says, What a
13 shit show; do you see that?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Did you post that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So that is your comment?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then below that it says, Your number
20 one concern as sheriff is COVID. Where is my
21 eyeroll emoji; do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Did you type that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Why were you upset that she was concerned

1 about COVID?

2 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

3 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: She's looking at
4 you to see if she can answer.

5 MR. Wiest: You can answer. Unless I
6 tell you not to answer, which I'm only
7 going to do if he raises a privilege
8 issue, you can answer everything today.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay.

10 A. As a wife of a law enforcement
11 professional, I had other ideas of what were more
12 important issues than COVID, and I would expect the
13 top law enforcement professional to understand that
14 and have the same ideas.

15 Q. Okay. And what do you -- I don't want to
16 mischaracterize what you just said, but you said you
17 had other ideas as a wife of a law enforcement
18 official?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What were those ideas?

21 A. Well, I had said, In a department which
22 has -- oh, wait a minute, sorry.

23 My biggest health priority would be
24 officers coming home safe to their families without
25 a bullet in their head and not coming home with the

1 flu. And then I --

2 Q. And -- oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead. I
3 thought you were done.

4 A. And then I stated some facts about how
5 many officers had died in the line of duty, how many
6 officers had died from suicide that year, and that
7 the COVID deaths were not even close to those
8 numbers. That's where I came up with my conclusion
9 that there were more pressing health concerns.

10 Q. When you just said that, it looks like you
11 were kind of reading or referring to a post lower
12 down on the page where it says, Yes, a priority for
13 the entire community is to stay healthy; do you see
14 that?

15 A. Yes. That was not mine.

16 Q. That was not yours?

17 A. No. That was Elaine Moscovitz. The
18 reason why my name is highlighted is because she had
19 tagged my name.

20 Q. Oh. Oh, okay. Yeah, I see that. The
21 formatting is weird. So it does say Elaine there.
22 And then it says Jennifer Patterson Davis.

23 A. She was addressing me.

24 Q. Because she was replying to you, so that
25 highlights your name?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. So then underneath that you're
3 replying to her, so it starts with Elaine Moscovitz,
4 right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And it says, number one priority, though?
7 I didn't say it shouldn't be addressed, but my
8 biggest health priority would be officers coming
9 home safe to their families without a bullet in
10 their head and not coming home with the flu; do you
11 see that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. What do you mean by flu?

14 A. Her -- she said her priority was COVID.
15 And I was equating COVID with a virus similar as the
16 flu.

17 Q. Do you believe it's the same thing as the
18 flu?

19 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

20 A. I believe it's similar, yes.

21 Q. Okay. And do you believe that COVID is a
22 separate disease?

23 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

24 A. I believe that COVID and the flu are both
25 viruses that create similar symptoms, so I believe

1 they're similar.

2 Q. Okay. You believe that they're similar,
3 but you believe they're distinct viruses?

4 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

5 A. I'm not an epidemiologist, but I'm sure
6 there are differences in the way the virus is
7 constructed.

8 Q. Okay. Let's turn to the next page, which
9 is Exhibit 2 attached to the complaint. Does this
10 look familiar to you?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And what is it?

13 A. It's a Facebook post that I posted on my
14 personal page on January 4, 2021.

15 Q. And this was right after Sheriff McGuffey
16 took office, correct?

17 A. It was the same day as the comments I
18 posted on her live feed, her -- from the previous
19 exhibit that we just went over. It was the same
20 day.

21 Q. Okay. And did this happen after you were
22 interacting to the live feed?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. So not to try to get too much in
25 your headspace, but you were kind of engaged in this

1 live feed conversation, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And it kind of inspired this post to
4 occur?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Do you know how much longer after
7 that live feed that you decided to do this post?

8 A. I don't.

9 Q. Okay. Was it -- well, you know -- I mean,
10 was it like immediate or was it some time had
11 passed?

12 A. Some time -- give me a time frame. Hours,
13 minutes?

14 Q. Yeah, I would say more than an hour is
15 some time.

16 A. Probably more than an hour, but I'm not
17 sure. I couldn't -- I just know it was the same
18 day.

19 Q. Okay. Did you discuss this post with
20 Jason at all?

21 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

22 A. I didn't. He might have asked me about
23 it. But I never said anything to him before or. . .

24 Q. What did he say to you about it?

25 A. I don't remember.

1 Q. Well, let's go through the post.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Okay. It says, I really don't like seeing
4 political posts continuously on Facebook because
5 like they say, opinions are like assholes.

6 Everybody has one and they probably stink. That is
7 unless you are one of those weirdos that bleaches
8 your asshole and does those colon cleanse things,
9 but I digress. Are those your statements?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. It says, I have one political
12 opinion I need to get off my chest. In today's
13 press conference our new -- and it says sheriff in
14 quotations -- says her number one issue is going --
15 that she is going to tackle in her first weeks in
16 office is COVID; do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. So it says in today's press
19 conference. As you said earlier you're referring to
20 the live stream press conference, correct?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. All right. Why did you put sheriff in
23 quotes here?

24 A. I don't believe that she's acting as a top
25 law enforcement professional should and doesn't have

1 a grasp on what the needs are that I would expect
2 from a real sheriff.

3 Q. Okay. Well, can you provide me a little
4 bit more detail why you think she didn't have a
5 grasp on the job?

6 A. To state that COVID is a number one
7 priority as opposed to the other health concerns of
8 law enforcement officers, that's why.

9 Q. I want to go a few sentences down. It
10 says, This person is nothing more than a politician
11 and is nowhere near qualified to be the sheriff; do
12 you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. It says, If you voted for her because of
15 her qualifications -- and it has a parenthetical --
16 it says not being a certified peace officer -- being
17 fired from the department for being on the Brady
18 list, then you have the IQ of a kumquat. Is that
19 your sentence?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. So in the parenthetical it says
22 being fired. How did you know that she was fired?

23 A. I heard about the internal investigation
24 on the news about her creating a hostile work
25 environment.

1 Q. Were you aware if she had filed suit?

2 A. At the time I learned of it, I'm not sure
3 if that's what the news -- if that was connected
4 with the news article or not.

5 Q. Okay. How did you know about her being on
6 the Brady list?

7 A. I have heard that on the news multiple
8 times. I believe I've heard it from other officers.

9 Q. What other officers?

10 A. I'm not sure.

11 Q. When would you have heard it from other
12 officers?

13 A. It could have been at a football game or
14 some type of social outing with other officers.

15 Q. So sometimes when you're at social
16 gatherings with officers, they kind of talk to you
17 about things that are happening in the department?

18 A. Not to me, just in general whoever --
19 usually we're in a group. I'm never on a one-on-one
20 situation.

21 Q. So these are group conversations when
22 you're with your husband at certain events?

23 A. Well, usually I'm not with my husband at
24 football games, because he's on the field.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. It could be spouses.

2 Q. Okay. To continue it says, or thought it
3 would be neat to see a gay woman as sheriff, then
4 you are a twatwaffle. Did you type that?

5 MR. Wiest: Objection to form. That
6 wasn't the whole sentence.

7 You can answer.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. How do you define twatwaffle?

10 A. An idiot. There's a comment on that post
11 that's a screenshot of the definition and that's
12 what it says. I know you can't see the comments on
13 here.

14 Q. I can't see the definition. But you -- I
15 don't know that -- that doesn't come from Webster's
16 Dictionary, does it?

17 A. I'm not sure. I don't know if it's
18 in. . .

19 Q. Maybe Urban Dictionary?

20 A. Maybe. I'm not sure. I didn't post the
21 definition. Somebody else did.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. So I don't know where they got that from.
24 But I would agree that's the definition.

25 Q. So when you use the word twatwaffle,

1 you're calling someone an idiot or a fool or a
2 moron --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- right? So to you the word twatwaffle
5 is a way to make a derogatory statement towards
6 someone's intelligence?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. So another way to read this part of
9 the sentence is if someone thought it would be neat
10 to see a gay woman as sheriff, then they are an
11 idiot?

12 A. If that was their only reason. Not just
13 because she was gay, but. . .

14 Q. Okay. Well, what would be wrong with
15 wanting to see a gay woman advance to a position of
16 leadership?

17 A. Nothing. As long as she had the
18 qualifications.

19 Q. Why did you bring up her sexual
20 orientation?

21 A. Because I believe she was voted in because
22 of identity politics and not her merit.

23 Q. Do you think that's the only reason people
24 voted her in?

25 A. I don't know what -- what other reasons.

1 Q. I mean, could it be her political party by
2 any chance?

3 A. Her political party -- I know that
4 identity politics is important, so those two could
5 be connected possibly.

6 Q. Are you aware that her lawsuit against the
7 County for her termination was successful?

8 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

9 A. I believe it was settled.

10 Q. After summary judgment, correct?

11 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

12 A. I'm not sure.

13 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Okay. Let's set
14 that aside.

15 (Defendants' Deposition Exhibit No. .

11 was marked for identification.)

17 Q. I've handed you what is now marked as

18 Defendants' Exhibit 11. Are you familiar with
19 Donald Raymond Gilreath?

20 A. I am not. I do not know him personally.

22 February 12, 2021?

23 MR. WIESI: Objection to form and
24 foundation.

25 Go ahead.

1 A. No. Because I don't know who he is.

2 Q. Okay. If I were to hold out that he was a
3 deputy who worked in the justice center, would you
4 have any reason to disagree with that?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Are you aware that he died because of
7 complications of COVID that he contracted while
8 working?

9 MR. Wiest: Objection to form and
10 foundation.

11 You may answer.

12 A. No.

13 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: I wasn't done with
14 the question.

15 THE WITNESS: Oh, I'm sorry.

16 Q. That he died as a result of COVID-19 that
17 he contracted in the line of duty at the Hamilton
18 County Justice Center?

19 MR. Wiest: Objection to form and
20 foundation.

21 A. No, I did not.

22 Q. Okay. Do you know that he was the only
23 death of a deputy in the year 2021 regarding the
24 line of duty?

25 MR. Wiest: Objection to form and

1 foundation.

2 Q. In Hamilton County. Sorry.

3 A. No, I did not.

4 Q. So you're unaware that in the year 2021
5 the only deputy that died in the line of duty died
6 of COVID complications?

7 MR. Wiest: Objection to form and
8 foundation.

9 A. No, I did not know that.

10 Q. Okay. Does that affect your opinion at
11 all in your post that you typed a month earlier?

12 A. No, it doesn't.

13 Q. Okay. Why not?

14 A. One year of data doesn't make up for -- I
15 don't know for sure, but I would imagine that if you
16 looked at the other years, there would probably be
17 more suicides or in-line -- in-duty deaths than
18 COVID deaths; does that make sense?

19 Q. Sure. But COVID didn't exist in the year
20 2019, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. So that wouldn't be something that people
23 would be concerned with in the year 2019, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Or the year 2018, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. But it was a concern in the year 2020,
3 correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. It was a concern in the year 2021,
6 correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. As a matter of fact in the year 2021 it
9 was 100 percent deputy deaths in Hamilton County,
10 correct?

11 A. Correct. Can I ask a question?

12 Q. Yeah, sure.

13 A. Do you have the number of duty deaths in
14 2020 as opposed to COVID since COVID was in 2020?

15 Q. I don't. I have 2021.

16 A. I would -- I would be interested before
17 making a decision to hear 2020 when COVID was
18 introduced.

19 Q. Well, I would be, too. But I don't have
20 it with me today.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Sorry.

23 A. It's okay.

24 Q. Would you be concerned that deputies --
25 other deputies might see your post after Deputy

1 Donald Raymond Gilreath died and be bothered by it?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. Why not?

4 A. Well, I think that most people know that
5 you have a first amendment right to freedom of
6 speech to say what you want. I don't expect most
7 people to be thin-skinned or to think that I'm
8 something special that my opinion would have any
9 bearing on them.

10 Q. Does your husband ever get bothered by
11 public comments about police officers?

12 A. I don't know. You would have to ask him.

13 Q. Do you ever get bothered concerning public
14 comments about police officers?

15 A. That's a good question. Give me a second
16 to think about that.

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. I'm trying to think of current events.
19 That's what immediately popped into my head. I
20 guess it bothers me. It doesn't make me feel good,
21 but it -- I believe they have a right to those
22 opinions.

23 Q. Would you agree with this statement, just
24 because someone can say something doesn't mean they
25 should?

1 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

2 You may answer.

3 A. No. I think their rights outweigh any
4 negative consequences in most situations.

5 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: You can hand me
6 that back.

7 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

8 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Thanks. Are you
9 okay; do you need a break or anything?

10 THE WITNESS: I'm great.

11 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Holding up?

12 THE WITNESS: I'm doing fine.

13 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: All right.

14 THE WITNESS: Do you think we need a
15 break?

16 MR. Wiest: I think -- no. As long
17 as you're comfortable?

18 THE WITNESS: I'm good.

19 MR. Wiest: Okay.

20 BY MR. MILLER-NOVAK:

21 Q. Has Jason ever talked to you about the
22 Facebook post that you have seen that are critical
23 of police officers?

24 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

25 You may answer.

1 A. I don't recall any. Nothing specific.

2 Q. Do you know who Caroline Adams is?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who is she?

5 A. She -- I have known her from Facebook to
6 the pages that she runs, meme pages, satirical
7 pages, all focusing on law enforcement, public
8 service.

9 Q. And the first word you used was meme?

10 A. Meme. Sorry.

11 Q. Meme.

12 A. M-e-m-e, meme.

13 Q. M-e-m-e?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Okay. And what's your opinion of Caroline
16 Adams?

17 A. Can you further elaborate on opinion of
18 what, like as a person or -- I'm not sure what
19 you're asking.

20 Q. Well, let's start with as a person.

21 A. Honestly I'm not sure.

22 Q. You don't know her personally?

23 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

24 A. I wouldn't say that I know her very well
25 personally.

1 Q. Have you interacted with her?

2 A. Yes. On Facebook. I do like her posts.

3 I will comment on her posts.

4 Q. So you've liked her posts and commented on
5 them?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Has she ever responded to you?

8 A. Oh, I'm sure she has, because I've
9 responded -- I've made many comments and likes on
10 her posts.

11 Q. Has she ever sent you like any -- I'm not
12 always the best at language here -- like the private
13 messages like through the Messenger thing?

14 A. I would say she has.

15 Q. So she has -- in addition to just kind of
16 like on a feed, she's also like directly messaged
17 you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you still have those messages?

20 A. I can look. I probably do, but I'm not
21 sure.

22 Q. Do you usually delete Facebook messages?

23 A. I have.

24 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Okay. Well,
25 please don't delete any that you have of

1 hers now. And if you have any still --
2 well, I'll send a follow-up, but obviously
3 we're going to request those.

4 MR. Wiest: We reserve all
5 objections.

6 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Naturally.

7 Q. All right. So you've interacted with a
8 few of her posts. So do you tend to agree with her
9 political viewpoints?

10 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

11 A. Sometimes.

12 Q. Okay. Well, what type of posts has she
13 kind of had that you've liked or agreed with?

14 A. A lot of the things that affect police
15 officers.

16 Q. So you might not agree with all of her
17 political opinions, but her opinions about police
18 safety you generally agree with; is that fair?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Would you agree that some of her
21 memes or humor or whatever you've described can be
22 rather edgy at times?

23 A. Sure.

24 Q. Have you ever seen any posts from her
25 about Sheriff McGuffey?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Have you ever seen any posts from her
3 about Sheriff McGuffey that kind of are degrading
4 about her sexual orientation?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What have you seen?

7 A. I know she calls her Chaz the
8 Anti-Sheriff. But I -- at this point I can't give
9 you any specific meme that she's made. But I do
10 know there have been many.

11 Q. And what does the phrase Chaz the
12 Anti-Sheriff mean to you?

13 MR. Wiest: Objection to form and
14 foundation.

15 You may answer.

16 A. I think she's criticizing her as a law
17 enforcement professional, that she is -- she does
18 the opposite of what you would expect a law
19 enforcement professional to be.

20 Q. By any chance did you see a meme that
21 Caroline Adams had made that kind of was themed upon
22 Brokeback Mountain?

23 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

24 A. Do you have a copy of it that I can see?

25 Q. I don't.

1 A. I don't, but it wouldn't surprise me.

2 Q. Okay. Would you describe some of
3 Caroline's posts as homophobic in nature?

4 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

5 A. Sure. I can see that.

6 Q. Have you ever liked any of her posts that
7 degraded Sheriff McGuffey's sexual orientation?

8 A. Oh, I'm not sure.

9 Q. You just don't recall?

10 A. I don't recall.

11 Q. I'm pretty sure the answer is no, but
12 you've never met Caroline Adams in person?

13 A. I have.

14 Q. You have?

15 A. I have.

16 Q. Okay. And where have you met her in
17 person?

18 A. At a bar on the west side of Cincinnati.

19 Q. What bar?

20 A. Fogarty's.

21 Q. Where is that?

22 A. Cheviot.

23 Q. There's eight gazillion bars on Cheviot
24 Road, isn't there?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Which one is that by?

2 A. It's -- I guess it would be close to Hail
3 Mary's. They're owned by the same people right off
4 Harrison Avenue.

5 Q. Okay. And was there some kind of event
6 going on at Fogarty's that night?

7 A. No. She invited people out -- just any of
8 the west side people that were out, if they wanted
9 to come grab a drink.

10 Q. And how did you know that the invite
11 was -- did she invite people through Facebook?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So you saw like a Facebook post from
14 Caroline Adams saying --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. I mean, was she just inviting like all of
17 her Facebook friends?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How many people showed up?

20 A. Maybe four.

21 Q. Only four?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. That's probably about all the following I
24 have, so I shouldn't really laugh at all. So you
25 were --

1 A. I don't think a lot of people want to be
2 associated with her. I think they would be afraid
3 to be retaliated against if they were seen with her.

4 Q. By people you think would be afraid they
5 would be retaliated against, who are you talking
6 about?

7 A. People in public safety that interact with
8 her.

9 Q. Well, why do you think they would be
10 retaliated against?

11 A. Because my husband was retaliated against
12 because I interact with her.

13 Q. When was this bar event?

14 A. It was in the winter. I know it was cold.
15 So it was either end of 2024 or beginning of 2025.

16 Q. Oh. So this is after Jason had already
17 quit his job?

18 A. Oh, yes.

19 MR. WIEST: Objection to form.

20 A. Yes.

21 THE WITNESS: Sorry.

22 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: That's okay. Did
23 you get it?

THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

25 O. Okay. Did Jason go?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. So you were there. She was there.

3 How many other people -- two more people, I guess?

4 A. Yeah, maybe three. I think there was
5 three of us.

6 Q. And who were those people?

7 A. Honestly I've never met them before.
8 There was a female. I think she was the sister of
9 an officer. There was another older male there. I
10 don't remember his name. I just -- the only
11 conversation I had with him was he was telling me
12 about a podcast that he created. And there was
13 another young male there.

14 Q. Well, since you don't know any of their
15 names, I'll assume you didn't form relationships
16 with any of --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- these people?

19 MR. Wiest: You got to let him finish
20 asking.

21 THE WITNESS: All right. Sorry.

22 MR. Wiest: It's okay.

23 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: You're doing your
24 best.

25 Q. All right. And what was the conversation

1 about?

2 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

3 A. Politics. The female was involved in
4 politics in Price Hill, so there was conversations
5 about city issues. The gentleman -- he was talking
6 about his podcast about city issues.

7 I had a conversation with Caroline about
8 her husband. Since I didn't know her that well, I
9 didn't know that her husband had died. He was in
10 law enforcement. So that was the main conversation
11 we had.

12 Q. What police force was -- what was his
13 name?

14 A. I can't remember his first name. He was a
15 ranger -- Hamilton County Park Ranger.

16 Q. Did he die in the line of duty?

17 A. No. He had a long, drawn-out -- he had a
18 stroke and then he had a series of strokes after
19 that. So it was a long, drawn-out illness.

20 Q. Have you had any other personal
21 interactions with Caroline Adams besides that day?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Have you had any private interactions with
24 her whether through Messenger or text message,
25 email, or anything like that?

1 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

2 A. When? Well, I told you --

3 Q. Yeah. After that meeting.

4 A. Oh, after that meeting. I did. I had --
5 the day that Larry Henderson died, I said, Is he --
6 you know, have you heard, is he gone? And she said
7 Yes, he's passed. And she said that -- I told her I
8 was sorry. And that she was supposed to meet up
9 with him to celebrate his retirement at a pig roast
10 on Memorial Day. And that was the last.

11 Q. Have you talked to her at all about this
12 lawsuit in any form?

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 Q. When did you talk to her about this
15 lawsuit?

16 A. I don't recall specifics.

17 Q. Through written communications?

18 A. It probably would have had to been, yeah,
19 through Messenger.

20 Q. Through Messenger?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Okay. What did you discuss with her?

23 A. I know she specifically wanted to know who
24 my attorneys were.

25 Q. Who your attorneys were?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Sorry. He coughed right when you said
3 that, so I missed that. Anything else?

4 A. I don't remember.

5 Q. Okay. Have you ever exchanged text
6 messages with her at any point in time?

7 A. I don't remember. I don't believe so.

8 Q. Okay. So aside from kind of like
9 interacting on her Facebook feed, the only other
10 written communications you've ever had with Caroline
11 Adams has been through Facebook Messenger?

12 A. I have emailed her. She asked for a copy
13 of our complaint when it was filed.

14 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Okay. Well,
15 please preserve those. And then, you
16 know, we'll follow up with requests for
17 that, Chris.

18 MR. Wiest: We'll reserve all
19 objections.

20 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: What's that?

21 MR. Wiest: We'll reserve all
22 objections.

23 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Undoubtedly.

24 Q. Have you communicated with -- off the
25 subject, have you communicated with anybody else

1 about this lawsuit?

2 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Not attorneys.

3 MR. Wiest: Thank you.

4 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Yeah. I know
5 that's what you were going to say.

6 A. I know my father has asked.

7 Q. Just kind of on the phone or verbally?

8 A. Both. How is it going.

9 Q. Anything in writing?

10 A. No.

11 Q. So you're just giving him updates about
12 the lawsuit?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Anybody else besides your father?

15 A. Not that I recall.

16 MR. Wiest: And, again, except
17 counsel. Thank you. Not including
18 counsel.

19 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Not including
20 counsel.

21 Q. As a going concern, you never need to tell
22 me about conversations you have with these guys,
23 okay?

24 A. Okay.

25 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: I would like to

1 take a break. We're probably going to
2 change subjects. I think this will be a
3 good time.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay. We're off
5 the record.

6 (A brief recess was taken.)

7 BY MR. MILLER-NOVAK:

8 Q. All right. So are you familiar with what
9 RENU is?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. What do you understand RENU to be?

12 A. It's a specialized unit of Hamilton County
13 Sheriff's Department focusing on narcotics
14 investigations.

15 Q. And you're aware that Jason had applied
16 for RENU on two separate occasions?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And do you recall when the first
19 was?

20 A. I don't.

21 Q. If I said 2018 roughly, would you disagree
22 with that?

23 A. I wouldn't know.

24 Q. Okay. Do you know that he was denied the
25 first time he applied?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who was sheriff when that happened?

3 A. What year did you say?

4 Q. 2018.

5 A. Was that Jim Neil? I'm not sure.

6 Q. I believe so.

7 A. Was Charmaine elected in 2020?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. So yes, Jim Neil.

10 Q. Okay. Do you think that Charmaine
11 McGuffey had anything to do with Jason not receiving
12 his RENU promotion in 2018?

13 A. I wouldn't know.

14 Q. Okay. Did Jason tell you that his
15 application was denied?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did he tell you why he believed it
18 happened?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. Are you aware that in 20- -- at the
21 end of 2022 -- or is it early 2023 -- that Jason had
22 taken a test in terms of placement for promotion?

23 A. For RENU or for corporal?

24 Q. For corporal.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. So you're aware of the last time he
2 took a test for corporal?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Are you aware of what his placement was on
5 that test?

6 A. Not exactly. I know it was in the teens.
7 But I do not know exactly.

8 Q. Okay. Did he talk to you about those
9 results at all?

10 A. The only thing that sticks out is that
11 some of the people -- some of the people on the list
12 had already made corporal's pay, so that -- all
13 those people on the list were not going to be road
14 corporals.

15 Q. Okay. So he talked to you about that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. What you're referring to is some of
18 those people would get different positions that
19 would result in a bump in pay so they wouldn't
20 necessarily get a promotion to corporal, correct?

21 MR. Wiest: Objection to form and
22 foundation.

23 A. No. My understanding is that those people
24 were already at corporal level pay. They just
25 didn't have the stripes.

1 Q. Okay. So you understood that there was no
2 longer being ahead of him on the list, correct?

3 MR. WIEST: Objection to form and
4 foundation.

5 A. Yeah. I'm sorry. Can you ask that in a
6 different way? I'm not sure.

7 Q. Well, I'm trying to understand what your
8 testimony is. So you're saying that some of these
9 people already had corporal pay without getting a
10 bump to road corporal; is that --

11 A. Just the -- just the designation as a
12 corporal.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. They were still at the same pay rate.

15 They just didn't have a designation as a corporal.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Because they weren't all patrol.

18 Q. And Jason told you that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And what significance does that
21 have to you?

22 A. I think it has to do with how many people
23 they can promote till they need to get to someone
24 that will be a road patrolman is what they're
25 looking for -- I mean, a corporal -- a road corporal

1 is what they're looking for.

2 So sometimes they have to promote people
3 because they're already at that level to get to the
4 person they need for -- to get a road corporal.

5 Q. Okay. So Jason was kind of talking about
6 when it might become his turn then, in other words?

7 A. No, not necessarily. Just how -- that
8 there were different needs on the list.

9 Q. Okay. At any time while he was still
10 employed at Hamilton County did Jason tell you that
11 a corporal position had become available to him?

12 A. That he was offered a position as
13 corporal; is that what you're saying?

14 Q. That one was available for his placement.

15 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure if he knew
16 everybody on the list and who was who and who was
17 able to be a road corporal or who was just getting
18 the official title since they were already at that
19 pay rate. I don't know if he knew all of that.

20 Q. Okay. Well, you understand that the
21 placement list -- the way it works is that as
22 corporal positions come available, people higher up
23 on the list have the priority for that promotion --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. So if I were to represent to you
3 that Jason's placement was 19, do you have any
4 reason to agree with that?

5 A. No. I believe it was in the teens.

6 Q. Okay. So essentially there's 18 people
7 ahead of him, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. All right. So as corporal positions
10 become available, the 18 people ahead of him would
11 essentially have priority over Jason then, correct?

12 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

13 A. As far as being promoted to a road
14 corporal?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. No. I think a lot of -- it could be
17 possible that a lot of those people before him could
18 get promoted to corporal but not have to go to road
19 patrol. They could stay in their -- whatever
20 division they're in that was at corporal's pay. So
21 if you were in RENU, you could get promoted to
22 corporal and still be in RENU and not be a road
23 corporal.

24 Q. Okay. But you would understand that
25 people ahead of him would get corporal promotions

1 before him most likely, correct?

2 A. It would depend.

3 Q. On what do you think it depends?

4 A. What I heard in a deposition was the rule
5 of three. So they do have some discrepancy on how
6 many they can skip. They don't have to go in order.
7 So if you're number one, you could get passed up and
8 they could pick number two, number three, or number
9 four. That would be my understanding.

10 Q. Well, if you're number one, it would be
11 number two and number three potentially, correct?

12 A. Sure.

13 Q. So essentially the rule of three still
14 applies to the next three people on the list; do you
15 understand that?

16 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. Because it wouldn't be like number
19 one, number 10, and number 12, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. It would be like number one, number two,
22 and number three, correct?

23 A. But it wouldn't have to be in order of
24 one, two, three. It could be one, two, four. One,
25 two, four, six. I guess what I'm saying is it

1 doesn't have to be exactly chronologic order.

2 Q. Okay. But do you know at any time before
3 Jason quit whether or not a position had come
4 available to him that he would even be one of the
5 three people in line?

6 MR. Wiest: Objection.

7 A. Oh, I'm not sure.

8 MR. Wiest: Go ahead.

9 A. I'm not sure.

10 Q. You're not sure?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. So we did talk a little bit ago
13 about Jason applying for RENU in the year 2018 and
14 not receiving it, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. All right. So then he applied again in
17 the year 2023, correct?

18 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

19 A. I do not know the specific time he
20 applied.

21 Q. Okay. Does January of 2023 sound correct
22 to you?

23 A. I would take your word on it.

24 Q. Okay. Did he talk to you about applying
25 before he applied?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And what did he tell you?

3 A. Just that he knew -- or he told me you
4 know this is my dream, this is where I want to end
5 my career. He had -- since the first time he
6 took -- or had applied for RENU, he took classes on
7 his own. He took classes that were paid for by the
8 County. Classes on his own that he paid for on his
9 own. And I knew that he was working towards this
10 goal. I knew that he was eventually going to apply
11 for this again.

12 Q. Is that all he told you about his
13 application before it occurred?

14 A. I can't recall.

15 Q. Okay. After he applied did he discuss his
16 application for RENU with you anymore?

17 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

18 A. Yes. I would say the only thing I
19 remember him saying he thought he did well.

20 Q. Okay. And eventually did you learn that
21 his application was rejected by Jay Gramke?

22 A. Yes. But I was also told that he had the
23 position. So I was told that after he was told he
24 had the position that it was taken away by Jay
25 Gramke.

1 Q. Okay. And what did he tell you about
2 that?

3 A. He had gotten a phone call. And when the
4 phone call ended, he said they just told me that
5 they pulled me out of RENU because of your social
6 media. And the same person had called him back a
7 few minutes later I guess to clarify what it was,
8 and he said yes, it was indeed because of your
9 wife's social media.

10 Q. Okay. Do you know who that person was?

11 A. I believe it was Lieutenant Guy.

12 Q. Did you know Lieutenant Guy at all before
13 this phone call?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. Have you ever talked to Lieutenant
16 Guy?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Have you ever talked to Lieutenant Guy
19 since?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you know if Jason has talked to
22 Lieutenant Guy since this lawsuit has been filed?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. So what social media post was -- do you
25 understand they were referring to?

1 A. I assumed it was the one in the exhibits
2 you showed me about her press conference when she
3 was elected talking about COVID. And then my
4 personal post that same day. I believe it was about
5 those two.

6 Q. Did Jason tell you why or how Lieutenant
7 Guy supposedly knew that that was the reason?

8 A. No.

9 Q. When he told you that, what was your
10 response to him?

11 A. Honestly at first I didn't believe it was
12 a possibility. Yeah, I didn't believe it at first.
13 I soon learned when he had the meeting with the
14 Sheriff and Chief Deputy that that was in fact the
15 case.

16 Q. Did it affect -- when you heard that, did
17 it affect your social media behavior at all?

18 A. I don't believe so.

19 Q. When you heard that, did you come to the
20 conclusion that you wouldn't post any more critical
21 things any longer?

22 A. No. My husband knows I'm too stubborn.

23 Q. Did you continue to like Caroline Adams'
24 posts after that?

25 A. I'm not sure, but I would have.

1 Q. Did you continue to interact with Caroline
2 Adams after that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So it didn't affect your speech at all
5 after you learned that, correct?

6 MR. Wiest: Objection.

7 A. Speech in which way, just social media?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. I would say no.

10 Q. Okay. And it didn't affect your
11 willingness to associate with Caroline Adams then,
12 correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Did Jason tell you to stop posting online?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did he talk to you about your online
17 speech at all when he told you that?

18 A. He said, I know you're going to do what
19 you want to do, so I'm not going to tell you to not
20 do something.

21 Q. And you didn't offer or suggest that maybe
22 you should not engage in the type of speech in the
23 future?

24 A. No, because I did nothing wrong.

25 Q. Okay. So at some point Jason decides that

1 he wanted to have -- you know, going back to his own
2 testimony, he wanted to have a meeting with Sheriff
3 McGuffey and Jay Gramke; do you understand that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Did he talk to you about his desire
6 to have that meeting at all?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. What did he say to you?

9 A. He said I'm going to request a meeting
10 with the Sheriff and Chief Deputy to find out if
11 the -- if it is in fact true what they told me the
12 reason why I was kicked off of the RENU assignment.

13 Q. Okay. In terms of being kicked off the
14 RENU assignment, to the best of your understanding
15 did he ever officially start serving as a RENU
16 officer?

17 A. No. He told me that someone in RENU had
18 said you're the pick, we already have cases that are
19 going to be assigned to you.

20 Q. That were going to be assigned to him in
21 the future?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. So they kind of decided some cases
24 that they would assign to him is your understanding,
25 correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But he didn't start working on any cases
3 yet, correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Because they gave him a start date,
6 correct?

7 A. I'm not sure.

8 Q. Okay. But at no time did he tell you that
9 he was in fact a RENU officer yet, correct?

10 A. I don't remember if he said that exact
11 phrase.

12 Q. So he said he wanted to request a meeting.
13 Did he come to that conclusion the same day that he
14 found out?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. When did he come to that
17 conclusion?

18 A. I'm not sure.

19 Q. Was it very soon thereafter or weeks
20 thereafter?

21 A. I'm not sure.

22 Q. Okay. So he told you that he wanted to
23 have a meeting with the Sheriff, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And that he was requesting one?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Okay. Do you know the process that he
3 used to do that?

4 A. I believe it was a green letter, it's
5 called.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. That has to go up the chain of command to
8 get an appointment to meet with them.

9 Q. Okay. So he told you he sent that green
10 letter?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Did he tell you when the meeting
13 was scheduled?

14 A. I'm sure he did. The only thing I
15 remember is him saying it was quite a ways away. It
16 wasn't going to be soon.

17 Q. Okay. If I were to tell you that the
18 meeting happened on October 10, 2023, does that
19 sound correct?

20 A. That sounds correct, yes.

21 Q. Okay. So do you know how long in advance
22 roughly that you were aware that meeting was going
23 to occur in October?

24 A. Not exactly. If I had to give an answer,
25 I would say at least a month.

1 Q. Okay. So it was scheduled a long time
2 before it occurred?

3 A. Yes, I believe so.

4 Q. Okay. Are you aware that Jason planned on
5 recording that meeting?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did he discuss with you his intent to
8 record that meeting?

9 A. Can you rephrase that or clarify that
10 question? I'm sorry.

11 Q. Well, you're aware that he planned to
12 record it, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. Did he discuss with you why he
15 wanted to record it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What did he say?

18 A. That she has had a history of dishonesty
19 and she had tried to get him fired before. And if
20 he wouldn't have recorded that previous
21 conversation, he probably would have been fired. It
22 saved him. So from past experience that's why he
23 wanted to record it.

24 Q. Okay. Did you encourage him to record the
25 meeting?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. What did you say?

3 A. That's a good idea.

4 Q. Okay. Just like that?

5 A. Yeah. I mean, you know, because he said
6 about the past history. And I'm like, well, that
7 makes sense. If she's been dishonest once, I would
8 assume she would be dishonest again.

9 Q. Do you know that he ordered a recorder
10 that was shaped like a pen?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did that happen before or after this
13 conversation?

14 A. I don't recall.

15 Q. Did you help him order that pen?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you know where he ordered it from?

18 A. I did not see an invoice or anything. If
19 I had to guess, it was probably online.

20 Q. You don't know what site he ordered it
21 from?

22 A. If I would guess, it would be Amazon. But
23 I couldn't be 100 percent sure.

24 Q. Do you know how much it cost?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did he tell you why he wanted to get a
2 recorder that looked like a pen?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you see the recording device?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you see it before it was used?

7 A. I don't recall.

8 Q. Okay. Do you still have the recorder pen?

9 A. I don't know.

10 MR. Wiest: Just objection to form
11 and foundation.

12 Q. Have you ever used that recorder at all?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. Well, let's fast-forward to
15 October 10, 2023. So right before he had the
16 meeting, did you discuss what he would talk about
17 during that meeting?

18 A. No.

19 Q. He didn't tell you any of the questions he
20 had planned or prepared?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Well, you weren't in the meeting, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. All right. So he came home and reported
25 to you what happened in the meeting, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Okay. My understanding is is that he was
3 not -- it was not a workday for him; is that
4 correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Okay. Do you remember roughly what time
7 he came home?

8 A. I do not.

9 Q. Was it in the morning?

10 A. I don't know.

11 Q. Okay. You don't even have a general idea,
12 like morning or after?

13 A. I just remember I think his meeting was
14 around eight o'clock-ish in the morning when people
15 come in, you know, normal first-shifter people.

16 Q. Okay. To the best of your recollection
17 did he come straight home after the meeting?

18 A. I have no idea.

19 Q. So when he got home after the meeting,
20 what did he tell you?

21 A. He -- in a shocked voice he said, It was
22 because of you.

23 Q. Okay. Well, I'd imagine the conversation
24 went on from there. Can you do your best to
25 recollect it?

1 A. Sure. What would you like to know?

2 Q. Well, you said that -- whatever you just
3 said. What was your response?

4 A. That's bullshit.

5 Q. Okay. And what was his response to that?

6 A. I don't believe it either.

7 Q. Okay. Did you listen to the recording
8 that day?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did he tell you what the conversation was?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. What did he tell you?

13 A. He said one of the first things Gramke
14 said when I came in is I squashed you going to RENU,
15 how did you not think there would be consequences
16 for your wife's social media posts. He said that
17 the -- that multiple times in the conversation. It
18 was brought up about you, your social media, even
19 the Sheriff agreed, you know. She said, I don't
20 care if your wife has a hundred opinions, but how do
21 you think there's not going to be consequences for
22 you.

23 Can I elaborate? I did not listen to the
24 recording until the next day when he told me that
25 the Sheriff said that he needs to separate or cut

1 ties with me.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. That's when I decided to listen to the
4 tape the following day.

5 Q. Did he say that the Sheriff used those
6 exact words?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Did you listen to the tape?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. Did the Sheriff use those exact words?

11 A. Can I see a copy of it -- of the
12 transcript?

13 Q. I don't have it.

14 A. It's not word for word, but after she told
15 him the story about someone cohabitating with her,
16 that she told her she had to leave because she was
17 making her look bad, she then said, If I were you, I
18 would cut ties with the people in my life that were
19 hurting my career.

20 Q. You agree people is a plural word,
21 correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So that means more than one person,
24 doesn't it?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea who those
2 other people might be?

3 A. No. Because I was the only one named in
4 the meeting.

5 Q. Well, didn't they also discuss folks at
6 Anderson?

7 A. I'm not sure.

8 Q. Didn't they also discuss Caroline Adams in
9 that meeting?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Well, then you weren't the only
12 person discussed in the meeting?

13 A. But Caroline Adams doesn't cohabitiate with
14 my husband.

15 Q. Well, neither do the folks at Anderson,
16 correct?

17 A. Correct. That's why I believe it was
18 about me; otherwise, why would she preface a story
19 about people cohabitating with her making her look
20 bad.

21 Q. Okay. Was the person she was discussing
22 in that story her wife?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Okay. Didn't she say that it wasn't her
25 wife?

1 A. Possibly.

2 Q. It was not even someone that she was in a
3 relationship with?

4 A. We don't know that.

5 Q. Well, that's what she said in the
6 conversation, correct?

7 A. Well, she's also known for lying, so we
8 don't know that.

9 Q. Okay. Do you have any reason to know that
10 that was not true?

11 A. I don't.

12 Q. Okay. I want to give you Exhibit 1
13 again --

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. -- which is the complaint. Okay. Go to
16 page eight. Sorry. It took me a minute there.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. All right. See the little numbers on the
19 left?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. All right. So I want to go to
22 paragraph 40. Okay. So it says, He went home and
23 reported to Jennifer what Defendants had just told
24 him, and she broke down in tears. Jennifer told him
25 that while she had always supported his law

1 enforcement career, she can no longer support him if
2 he stayed at the Sheriff's Office; do you see that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. Is that a true statement?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you say that?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Okay. I can take
9 that back. Thank you.

10 Q. So after -- well, first, is it true, did
11 you cry --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- when he told you? So you were upset?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Were you angry?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you told him you couldn't support him
18 any longer if he stayed there. Did you want him to
19 leave at that point?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. Why?

22 A. It wouldn't be healthy for him to work in
23 an environment where leadership is willing to punish
24 you for your spouse's or your first amendment right
25 to free speech. That's not a culture that I want my

1 husband to work in.

2 Q. Did you tell him at that point you wanted
3 him to find another job?

4 A. No. I said I don't support you working
5 there.

6 Q. When did he tell you that he wanted to get
7 another job?

8 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

9 A. He didn't.

10 Q. Okay. Are you aware of whether or not
11 Jason was ever disciplined after that meeting?

12 A. I'm not aware.

13 Q. Okay. At any time after that meeting did
14 he tell you that he thought he was about to be
15 fired?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did he ever discuss with you the
18 possibility that he was going to be terminated?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did he discuss with you any beliefs that
21 he would never receive a promotion?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. What did he say about that?

24 A. He said this was my -- I believe this was
25 my last chance to go to RENU and that's never going

1 to happen now.

2 Q. Okay. So he was concerned that he would
3 never advance after that?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Did he think he would just not advance to
6 RENU?

7 A. Or corporal.

8 Q. Or corporal. So he thought essentially
9 he'd be stuck as a patrol officer for the rest of
10 his time with the County?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Okay. I actually
13 think this would be a good time to break
14 for lunch. Is that okay, guys? It's
15 noon.

16 (A lunch recess was taken.)

17 BY MR. MILLER-NOVAK:

18 Q. All right. So earlier we talked -- like
19 before the break we did talk a little bit about you
20 saying something along the lines of not supporting
21 Jason being there any longer and that you wanted him
22 to leave. Your --

23 A. Can I clarify something?

24 Q. Sure.

25 A. I believe I told him that I do not support

1 him working there anymore, but I could not make that
2 decision for him.

3 Q. Okay. You knew that if he -- I mean, you
4 said you had a business degree; is that right or --

5 A. My degree is in education.

6 Q. Education. Okay. But you would have
7 known that, you know, if he would leave and take
8 employment somewhere else, that that could affect
9 his income, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. All right. So it's possible that if he
12 left and he got a job somewhere else, that he could
13 end up making less money?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And he could end up having to maybe pay
16 more for health insurance, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And that it might even affect his
19 retirement, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you still wanted him to leave?

22 A. No. I wanted him to make that decision.
23 I would never tell him to leave. I told him I
24 didn't support him working at the Sheriff's
25 Department.

1 Q. Okay. I'm going to hand you what was
2 marked as Defendants' Exhibit 6. Have you seen this
3 before?

4 A. Yes. I wrote it.

5 Q. Okay. And when did you write that?

6 A. Monday, October 16, 2023.

7 Q. Okay. So that would have been
8 approximately six days after Jason met with the
9 Chief and the Sheriff, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. Why did you write this?

12 A. Well, it was devastating that I was the
13 reason why my husband had his promotion taken away.
14 And I wanted some answers as to why they thought it
15 was okay to do this to my husband when he did
16 nothing wrong and why they were trying to suppress
17 my speech and my views and threaten my husband to
18 continue his career with the department, that he
19 would have to censor me or tell me to censor myself,
20 I wanted some answers.

21 I guess one of the questions in there
22 was -- you know, I am interested to know why my
23 criticisms have such an important impact on the
24 department and if they were so important, why wasn't
25 this brought to his attention two years ago when the

1 comments were made.

2 Q. Did you ever get a response?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Would you agree that this letter doesn't
5 ask anything about divorce or them wanting you to
6 get divorced from your husband?

7 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

8 A. I wouldn't have written a letter if it
9 didn't involve that. I didn't state it in here, but
10 that's why I wrote the letter.

11 Q. Well, you asked about your speech, but you
12 didn't ask anything about why they wanted you to get
13 divorced; would you agree with that?

14 A. I would agree with that, yes.

15 Q. Okay. Well, why didn't you ask whether or
16 not -- why they wanted you to get divorced?

17 A. Well, it was obvious. Charmaine McGuffey
18 said if you want to further your career in this
19 department, I would suggest cutting ties with the
20 people that are holding you back.

21 Q. But she said people, right?

22 A. I believe so.

23 Q. Okay. She never said I suggest you
24 divorce your wife; would you agree with that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. If you go to -- well, it's towards
2 the bottom of the page. It says, If I were going to
3 lecture my husband; do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. On who he should distance himself from in
6 his profession, which I never would because he's a
7 grown man -- you didn't mention anything about him
8 distancing himself from you in that paragraph,
9 correct?

10 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

11 A. I'm sorry. Could you state that question
12 again? I think I'm confused on who he is.

13 Q. Jason would be the he.

14 A. Okay. Could you ask it again? Sorry.

15 Q. You don't mention anything about her
16 suggesting that you should distance yourself from
17 your husband or your husband should distance himself
18 from you, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. You talk about him distancing himself on
21 who he should distance himself from in his
22 profession, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. You're not part of his profession,
25 correct?

1 A. Correct. But that's not what I was -- I
2 didn't say that in the sentence that she had told
3 him in his profession. I was just making that as a
4 general. She didn't say in his -- to separate
5 himself in his profession. She had given a story
6 about people cohabitating with her. And then you
7 said you need to separate yourself from the -- or
8 cut ties with the people holding you back. There
9 was never -- she never said anything about
10 profession. I just said that.

11 Q. Okay. Well, let's go to the paragraph
12 above it.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. It says, Hypocrisy was also at its finest
15 during my husband's meeting. How could the sheriff
16 lecture my husband about distancing himself from
17 certain people while at the very same time one of
18 her biggest supporters was being sentenced to 16
19 months in federal prison; do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who are you referring to there?

22 A. It was the city councilman that had been
23 found guilty and sentenced.

24 Q. How did you know that he was one of her
25 biggest supporters?

1 A. There were pictures of them campaigning
2 together and then holding -- him holding a sign for
3 her and then posing for pictures together.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And I guess I correlated that, because I'm
6 my husband's biggest supporter, you know, in our
7 relationship. So I guess I was correlating that
8 with people that supported her.

11 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

12 Q. So you consider yourself your husband's
13 biggest supporter?

14 A. Maybe his momma, but I would say second.

15 Q. Second to his mother?

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Okay. So in terms of his profession you
18 consider yourself one of his biggest supporters?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Next to his momma?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. So do you think that your support
23 for his profession is extremely important to him?

24 A. Yes.

25 O. So you wrote this letter. It's fair to

1 say that you weren't really afraid to write this
2 letter to Jay Gramke, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. I mean, you would agree that you didn't
5 really hold back much in this letter, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. You stated your mind, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. It's rather critical?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Were you not concerned that Jason could be
12 retaliated against further?

13 A. He was already retaliated against. I
14 mean, it's already been done.

15 Q. Okay. You didn't think that this would
16 result in him getting fired or something extreme
17 like that, though?

18 A. I would have no idea.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I just knew that he was already retaliated
21 against.

22 Q. So you didn't think this would make things
23 worse?

24 A. I wasn't sure.

25 Q. Okay. Did you care?

1 A. Did I care?

2 Q. How this might impact things.

3 A. No.

4 Q. So you didn't consider at all what the
5 consequences of this letter would be before you
6 wrote it?

7 A. No. Because he's already faced the
8 consequences of my speech.

9 Q. Okay. After you wrote this to the best of
10 your knowledge, because he -- well, you know what,
11 before I get there, just to create the time frame.

12 He resigned -- at least he turned in his
13 resignation on January 9, 2024, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. But he didn't actually -- it was
16 like the end of that month, like January 30th or
17 something in 2024 is when he --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- actually left?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I think so.

23 MR. Wiest: Let him finish asking.

24 THE WITNESS: Sorry.

25 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: It's okay. We

1 took lunch. We forgot the rules a little
2 bit. That's okay. Getting a little bit
3 rebellious now.

4 Q. So between October 16, 2023, and he left
5 finally -- we just said January 30, 2024 -- trying
6 to do math -- a little over three months then,
7 correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. Thank you. In that entire time was
10 he ever retaliated against?

11 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. Okay. Were you aware of him ever being
14 disciplined after you wrote this letter?

15 A. I was not aware.

16 Q. Okay. Were you aware -- did he tell you
17 he was ever disciplined because of this letter?

18 A. I don't believe so.

19 Q. Did he ever tell you he was disciplined at
20 all after you wrote this letter?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. Were you ever threatened or
23 anything like that after you wrote this letter?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did anybody ever -- did you ever talk to

1 Jay Gramke at all?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Have you ever talked to Jay Gramke ever?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So Jay Gramke has never contacted you?

6 A. No. He has only spoken about me to other
7 people.

8 Q. Okay. So he didn't respond to this
9 letter?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Has Sheriff McGuffey ever responded to
12 this letter?

13 A. Not to me.

14 Q. Okay. Did she ever threaten you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Have you ever felt like you had suffered
17 some consequence for your speech?

18 A. I did suffer consequences because of my
19 speech.

20 Q. What consequence?

21 A. My husband got denied promotions, both
22 RENU and corporal. They stated it many times in the
23 recording.

24 Q. What corporal position was he denied?

25 A. The corporal's list that he was on, that

1 he was eligible on, where you said he was number 19.

2 Q. Do you know if they ever had a corporal
3 position open before he left?

4 A. I do not know.

5 Q. Okay. Well, you would agree that he
6 couldn't have been refused the corporal position if
7 one was not open that he was qualified for, correct?

8 A. That is correct. The reason why I believe
9 that he was skipped is because Jay Gramke told him,
10 you know I've done this before for the same reason.

11 Q. Okay. But you don't know whether or not
12 that had happened yet?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. Okay. Have you suffered any employment
15 consequences of any of your speech?

16 A. Because he switched jobs, I haven't looked
17 for full-time employment so that I can take care of
18 things at home. Because he's now 11 to 11 --
19 11 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., which means I couldn't work
20 first shift. We have a dog that has cancer, so I
21 need to be home. So I think that is probably
22 preventing me from getting full-time employment
23 currently.

24 Q. When did you sell the Gold Roof?

25 A. Gold Top Dairy Bar was sold in the fall of

1 2021.

2 Q. So you hadn't been employed since fall of
3 2021?

4 A. No. I did work -- I did have employment
5 at Harrison High School for two school years until
6 my son graduated in 2024. That was part-time.

7 Q. What were you doing at Harrison part-time?

8 A. Working in the kitchen. It was a
9 three-hour-a-day position.

10 Q. And when did you stop doing that?

11 A. May of 2024 when my son graduated. I took
12 that job so that I could be available for all my
13 son's events until he graduated.

14 Q. But Jason started at Springfield -- no,
15 Springdale, right -- is that where he works now,
16 Springdale Police Department?

17 A. Springdale, yes. City of Springdale.

18 Q. But he started there in February of 2024?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So for three months you still worked at
21 Anderson, correct --

22 MR. Wiest: Objection.

23 Q. -- or Harrison?

24 A. Yes. Part-time during school hours, three
25 hours a day. I was never full-time.

1 Q. Okay. So when he started at Springdale,
2 you were still able to do the same job that you were
3 doing before he went to Springdale?

4 A. The part-time, correct.

5 Q. Why haven't you just continued to work at
6 Harrison?

7 A. That's a good question. I think I just
8 wanted the extra time to support him. He has -- you
9 know, when he worked for the Sheriff's Department,
10 he was top of seniority. He could get off any day
11 he needed for all of his events, he coaches, things
12 like that. And at Springdale he's low man on the
13 totem pole, so it's hard for him to get off days for
14 whatever. So I just feel like it's easier if I hold
15 down the fort at home by not working full-time.

16 Q. But it's possible that you could have
17 continued to work at Harrison?

18 A. Sure. Part-time.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. It's possible.

21 Q. So you just chose to no longer do it?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. And you blame that on Hamilton
24 County?

25 A. No. I blame that on my husband's schedule

1 that I needed to be home.

2 Q. Had he gotten the RENU promotion, how
3 would you know what his schedule would have been if
4 he went to RENU?

5 A. Well, his brother is in RENU, so maybe his
6 schedule would have been similar to his brother's.

7 Q. Well, isn't part of your allegations that
8 he would have had more overtime if he went to RENU?

9 A. Can I see it in the. . .

10 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Sorry. You can.

11 I don't mean to ignore you. I'm just
12 seeing if I could find a place where it's
13 talked about so you're not hunting for it.
14 Andy found it for us.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 MR. PREM: It was just already open.

17 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: He got lucky.

18 Q. All right. It looks around 46, 47?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. So it's possible his schedule
21 would have changed in ways that would have affected
22 your employment decisions anyways then, correct?

23 A. Sure.

24 Q. Okay. So I'm not asking how you believe
25 Jason was financially harmed. I'm asking you. How

1 do you believe you were financially harmed?

2 A. Well, we share -- our incomes are shared,
3 so anything that would have been damaging to him
4 would have been damaging to me.

5 Q. But I think you said that he's a grown man
6 and he can kind of make his own decisions, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Okay. So he can make whatever income
9 decision he wants, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And he can make any employment decision he
12 wants, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. In addition, he could have also
15 chosen to not quit his job at the Sheriff's
16 Department, correct?

17 A. I don't believe it was a choice because of
18 the environment. I don't think his health would
19 have -- his mental health would have allowed him to
20 stay.

21 Q. But no one at the Sheriff's Department
22 told him he had to quit, correct -- that you know
23 of?

24 A. No. They did not tell him that he had to
25 quit.

1 Q. Okay. And you would agree that he had
2 other options available to him besides quitting,
3 correct?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay. So he couldn't -- you realize that
6 part of what your suit is about is the failure to
7 promote Jason, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. So you've said that you've been
10 damaged because they didn't give him the RENU
11 position, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And you've alleged that they failed to
14 promote him to corporal, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Well, he could have stayed there and filed
17 suit and brought the same lawsuit -- he could have
18 sued the County, he could have sued Sheriff
19 McGuffey, and he could have sued Jay Gramke for the
20 failure to promote him and continued to be employed
21 there, couldn't he have?

22 A. But in the meantime his mental health
23 could have been so bad that he could have offed
24 himself. So in my mind, no, it wasn't an option for
25 him to stay.

1 Q. Okay. You said could have. Do you know
2 that those things would have happened?

3 A. No, I don't.

4 Q. Okay. So I'm not asking you to speculate
5 right now.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. I'm asking you to tell me what is possible
8 mechanically, if you will. Are you aware that an
9 option is to file suit while you continue to work at
10 a place?

11 A. I agree.

12 Q. Okay. So that would have been an option
13 to him?

14 A. Not a healthy option.

15 Q. Okay. You don't believe it would have
16 been a healthy option. But it would have been a
17 legal option available to you, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Okay. Do you know whether or not he could
20 have filed a grievance?

21 A. I'm not sure what his policies are on
22 grievances.

23 Q. Did he ever talk to you about the
24 possibility of filing a grievance?

25 A. I do not recall.

1 Q. Are you aware that he has a union
2 contract?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Are you aware that sometimes in union
5 contracts you have the ability to file grievances?

6 A. No. I've never been in a union, so I
7 don't understand.

8 Q. Do you know if you ever met with somebody
9 from the union?

10 A. I do not know.

11 Q. So earlier you said you could not support
12 him staying at the County, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. Did you ever threaten to divorce
15 him?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did he ever threaten to divorce you?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You guys have been married for a very long
20 time, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think earlier we uncovered you were
23 high school sweethearts, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Been together since -- I'm trying to do

1 the math -- sounds like 1993?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When the universe still meant something,
4 correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. So at any point in time did
7 you feel like your marriage was in danger of a
8 divorce? I'm talking about after the meeting with
9 Sheriff McGuffey.

10 A. I can't speak for him. I would -- the
11 divorce wouldn't be an option for me, but I can't
12 speak for him.

13 Q. Okay. So you had no intention of
14 divorcing him?

15 A. Not at that time, no.

16 Q. Okay. At any other time in your marriage
17 did you have an intention of divorcing him?

18 A. There were definitely days I would have
19 liked to, but no.

20 Q. Well, that was two different answers to
21 the same question.

22 A. Well, what wife doesn't think about that,
23 this guy is on my nerves today.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Nothing serious, no.

1 Q. Okay. Do you want to take a minute to
2 clarify the record? I mean, I'll give it to you.

3 A. Just ask it again and I'll. . .

4 Q. Okay. You've been frustrated with him
5 sometimes, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And maybe wanted to hit him over the head
8 with a frying pan or something like that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. But you never contacted, let's say,
11 a family attorney?

12 A. No, I've never.

13 Q. You've never seriously contemplated
14 divorce?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. And for the record, you were just
17 kind of being a little sarcastic then?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. There you go. I helped you out.

20 And has he ever threatened a divorce at any time in
21 your relationship?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. So you don't know of or don't feel
24 that your marriage was actually threatened by the
25 actions of either Sheriff McGuffey or Jay Gramke

1 then, correct?

2 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

3 A. I couldn't say that. It's still an
4 ongoing tension in our household, so I couldn't tell
5 you in the future.

6 Q. Okay. What do you mean by it's an ongoing
7 tension in your household?

8 A. He still has resentment towards me because
9 he lost out on his dream job.

10 Q. Have you seen any counselor?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. How do you know that he has
13 resentment towards you?

14 A. Because he had told me that the reason why
15 he lost his job was because of me.

16 Q. Has he said that since he initially told
17 you that?

18 A. We've had conversations that he doesn't --
19 in his head he knows, you know, that I did -- I
20 didn't do anything wrong to harm him, but it's still
21 because of me that he has some resentment that he's
22 never going to have his job.

23 Q. I'm trying to think how to word this, but
24 do you believe that Sheriff McGuffey has any
25 power -- and what I mean by power, I mean

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1 governmental power -- to interfere with your
2 marriage?

3 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

4 A. She did interfere. Her actions did
5 interfere with our marriage.

6 Q. I'm talking about does she have any police
7 power, any governmental power to do anything that
8 affects your legal relationship to your husband?

9 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

10 A. I'm sorry. I don't understand the
11 question. Can you rephrase?

12 Q. Well, she doesn't have any power to force
13 you to get divorced, correct?

14 A. To force, no.

15 Q. Okay. So you could only get divorced if
16 you choose to get divorced, correct?

17 A. Correct. But she did threaten my
18 husband -- illegally she threatened him.

19 Q. Does Jay Gramke have any ability to force
20 you to get divorced?

21 A. He shouldn't, no.

22 Q. So not long after Jason's meeting with the
23 Sheriff and the Chief, he began employment at
24 Springdale, correct?

25 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Okay. I keep wanting to say Springfield.

3 Are you aware that he was contacted by Chief Butler?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And that he didn't have to apply?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

8 Q. Well, he did have to apply, but Chief
9 Butler contacted him first, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. Do you know when that occurred?

12 A. I do not.

13 Q. But you would agree that finding new
14 employment came rather easily to Jason, correct?

15 A. No. I think it was a very lucky
16 circumstance that Tom Butler was the chief of that
17 police department, because with the stigma that he
18 had against him, I don't know if any -- who else
19 would have hired him, except for somebody that knew
20 his character like Tom Butler. Tom Butler knew that
21 Jason wasn't a malcontent. He didn't do any of
22 these -- you know, that I wasn't a problem. So I
23 don't know if rumors and reputation would have --
24 anybody else would have wanted to hire him.

25 Q. You don't know whether or not that's the

1 case, do you?

2 A. I do not. It's my opinion.

3 Q. So it's just pure speculation then?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. You've not actually had anybody
6 tell you that they wouldn't hire Jason?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And Jason never applied anywhere and had
9 his application denied?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Has anybody ever come up to you and said
12 anything negative about Jason because of you?

13 A. Can you ask that one more time?

14 Q. Well, I mean, you know, you said something
15 about his reputation. I mean, has anybody said
16 anything to you about his reputation?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. Has anybody come up to you
19 unsolicited and talked to you about your
20 relationship with Caroline Adams?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Has anybody come up to you unsolicited and
23 talked to you about how you caused your husband to
24 lose his promotion?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Who?

2 A. I believe there were some police wives
3 that had made comments about how unfair it was. And
4 my friends, my family.

5 Q. Okay. So all these folks said how unfair
6 it was?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So it's safe to say that they were on your
9 side?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. So they didn't say anything
12 negative about Jason, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. So they didn't say anything that
15 would suggest some sort of stigma then, correct?

16 MR. Wiest: Objection.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Kind of like the opposite, correct?

19 A. And you're just talking about my
20 supporters?

21 Q. People that have talked to you about it.

22 A. My supporters. Correct. They were on
23 Jason's side.

24 Q. Okay. Has anybody said anything terrible
25 about Jason related to it?

1 A. On social media there were comments on the
2 news article when the lawsuit came out that, you
3 know, he should have kept his wife's mouth shut, he
4 should have known that she couldn't have, shouldn't
5 have said that, he deserves to be punished. So
6 there have been comments on social media, but I do
7 not know who they are.

8 Q. Okay. But those only happened, if you
9 will, because you filed the suit, correct?

10 A. I don't know if they would say that if we
11 didn't file the suit or not. I don't know.

12 Q. Okay. Have you seen anything on social
13 media talking about it before you filed the lawsuit?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. Do you know, did either of you
16 contact the media when you filed the lawsuit?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you know if your counsel contacted the
19 media after you filed the lawsuit?

20 MR. Wiest: Objection. Don't discuss
21 anything that you've discussed with
22 counsel.

23 If you can answer otherwise, fine.

24 If not --

25 A. I don't know.

1 MR. Wiest: -- you're not going to
2 answer.

3 Q. Do you know how the media found out about
4 the lawsuit?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. Did anybody from any media company contact
7 you for any comments after you filed the lawsuit?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Are you aware if anybody from the media
10 contacted Jason about the lawsuit after it was
11 filed?

12 A. I don't know.

13 Q. So other than these Facebook comments that
14 you've seen that were related to the lawsuit, are
15 you aware of any online comments at all about
16 yourself or Jason related to your Facebook posts?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Have you been denied any employment as a
19 result of your posts or negative criticisms of
20 Sheriff McGuffey?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Are you aware of any relationships you've
23 lost because of your post about Sheriff McGuffey?

24 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

25 A. Relationships that aren't there anymore as

1 a result of him not working for the department.

2 Like for an example would be other sheriff deputies'
3 wives at social events, work events that I don't see
4 anymore or keep in contact with, but -- only because
5 he doesn't work there anymore.

6 Q. Work friends that are no longer work
7 friends?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay. But they're kind of more -- but
10 they weren't your friends, I guess, outside of work
11 events; is that --

12 A. Some were. Some weren't.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. But not seeing each other in, I guess,
15 organized events or things make it less likely that
16 we would communicate.

17 Q. Have you ever seen any mental health
18 counselors or mental health therapists in your life?

19 A. Not mental health, no.

20 Q. It seemed like you were qualifying
21 something. Is there someone you would see that you
22 think is close to a mental health therapist?

23 A. Would a marriage counselor count as mental
24 health?

25 Q. Yeah, I think so.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. So you have seen a marriage counselor?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. When?

5 A. My son was probably three years old. So
6 16 years ago.

7 Q. Was this Jason and yourself that saw a
8 marriage counselor?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Okay. Why did you start seeing a marriage
11 counselor?

12 A. To try to make our marriage stronger.

13 With a young child things got stressful, and we
14 wanted to make sure there were no serious issues in
15 the marriage. We just wanted to make sure that we
16 were taking care of any small problems before they
17 became big problems.

18 Q. When you mentioned big problems, is there
19 ever a time in your marriage where you had had big
20 problems?

21 MR. Wiest: Objection to form.

22 A. I believe this issue is the biggest issue
23 we've faced in our marriage so far.

24 Q. Okay. So no other what you would consider
25 in your marriage any -- nothing like infidelity?

1 A. Absolutely not.

2 Q. And no physical separation for some period
3 of time or anything like that?

4 A. None.

5 Q. Okay. And what was the name of the
6 marriage counselor you saw; do you recall?

7 A. I don't. It was 16 years ago.

8 Q. Do you remember where it was; was it like
9 some kind of organization?

10 A. I can tell you where it was located. I
11 know they're not there anymore. But I do not
12 remember the name. I don't even remember the
13 counselor's name. It was in Harrison, Ohio.

14 Q. Okay. So other than this marriage
15 counseling 16 years ago, you've never seen -- as an
16 individual you've never seen any counselor?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. Have you ever taken any medication
19 for anxiety or depression or anything like that?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Have you ever talked to your doctor about
22 receiving medication for mental health at all?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Since the meeting with Gramke and McGuffey
25 have you sought out any mental health therapy at all

1 since then?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. And you haven't begun taking
4 anything for anxiety or depression or anything like
5 that?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. Do you have any chronic physical
8 conditions that you have to deal with?

9 A. Arthritis. I'm -- this week I'm going to
10 be seen by a rheumatologist from -- sent from my
11 primary doctor. I've recently had back surgery.
12 And that's it.

13 Q. Okay. Nothing that's become worse --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- since the meeting or anything like
16 that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. Just normal joys of middle age --

19 A. Knocking on 50s, yes.

20 Q. Yeah. I'm sure everybody in this room,
21 except for Andy, feels it. How old is your child?

22 A. He's 19.

23 Q. Okay. Is that your only son?

24 A. Only son, yes. Only child.

25 Q. And he has kind of a goofy nickname; is

1 that right -- like Meatball or something like that?

2 A. Yes. Meatball.

3 Q. Okay. All right. When did he get that
4 name? I just got to know.

5 A. When he was born, he had this little round
6 head and he was bald and I said he looks like my
7 little meatball, so that just stuck.

8 Q. It just stuck. Now he's Meatball. Is he
9 okay with that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. He embraces it.

13 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: Okay. Good for
14 him. All right. Could we get a break so
15 we can talk?

16 THE COURT REPORTER: We're off the
17 record.

18 (A brief recess was taken.)

19 MR. MILLER-NOVAK: We're done.

20 (Plaintiffs' Deposition Exhibit No.

21 12 was marked for identification.)

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. Wiest:

24 Q. Ma'am, have you seen the transcript of the
25 audio recording that your husband had with Sheriff

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1 McGuffey and Chief Gramke?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that what Exhibit 12 is?

4 A. Yes.

5 MR. Wiest: That's all I got.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 (Deposition concluded at 2:27 p.m.)

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1 A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

2

3 STATE OF _____ :

4 COUNTY OF _____ :

5

6 I, JENNIFER DAVIS, have read the transcript
7 of my testimony given under oath on May 9, 2025.

8 Having had the opportunity to note any
9 necessary corrections of my testimony on the errata
10 page, I hereby certify that the above-mentioned
11 transcript is a true and complete record of my
12 testimony.

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16 JENNIFER DAVIS

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 I, Kristina L. Laker, Court Reporter and
3 Notary Public, do hereby certify:

4 That the witness named in the deposition,
5 prior to being examined, was duly sworn;

6 That said deposition was taken before me
7 at the time and place therein set forth and was
8 taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter
9 transcribed into typewriting under my direction and
10 supervision;

11 That said deposition is a true record of
12 the testimony given by the witness and of all
13 objections made at the time of the examination.

14 I further certify that I am neither
15 counsel for nor related to any party to said action,
16 nor in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have subscribed my
18 name and affixed my seal this 26th day of May, 2025.

19
20 /s/ Kristina L. Laker

21 _____
22 Kristina L. Laker
23 Notary ID 592345
24 My Commission expires: 12/21/25
25